Village Improvement Association

March 15, 2022

Minutes

Attendance: Malenda, Hodgkins, Heffernan, Olenick, Adams, Lang, Gunning, Donnelly, Walker

Colleen Baille, Catherine Bushman

Meeting was called to order at 5:08 pm

Minutes were not sent out. Will be sent out the next day

Director’s Report – Colleen

 Angela’s position was posted on library sites and she requested some names from John for possibilities for filling the position. Mary has been a Godsend in helping her with everything.

Due to some UTO from staff (largely Angela), we are a little ahead for this time of year.

Mayor’s budget should be out Thursday

We have been approached by Traveling Toys, a new non-profit that is looking to partner to assist with a grant opportunity to begin a library of toys. They’ve been successful in Westbrook and are looking for a second library, and came to us. Ideally, we would purchase between 25-40 toy kits over all age groups, to then be distributed with 2/3 at the main and 1/3 at OM. They’d take care of the grant piece.

Still waiting on boiler quotes; Mike has been on top of asking repeatedly for them.

Aisha and Taylor have been working with the Arts Council to collaborate on some upcoming programs.

Colleen and Shannon have been putting together the CLA Conference which will be May 3&4.

Colleen will be at PLA from 3/22-26. She will be flying back on the 28th. She has some scheduled time off but if come in for any necessary meetings that come up on 29th or 30th.

13 bids came in for Allingtown library. ARPA funds are tied to us going to Carrigan

Assistant Director – Catherine

 She sent out WHHS VIA 2022 scholarship information to area schools and Alan for the Via along with a press release. Shannon has put it on the website as well.

Began doing the WHPL purchase orders as part of my job as assistant director as an added layer of security to the purchasing process.

She saw a zoom meeting put on by the Division of Library Development about how to use your state annual report data during budget season and year round.

She is continuing to work on the ability for staff to view two weeks of everyone’s schedule in ADP but not have access to change anything.

Visited City Hall finance dept and spoke with Vaughn who told her that she will be running the monthly checks for WHPL. Catherine requested that they be run on the first week so we can make payroll.

She attended the virtual IFC(Intellectual Freedom Committee) meeting put on by NELA (New England Library Association). Discussed book challenges at local, consortia, state and national levels.

Attended a webinar about using population estimates and projections at census.gov/academy. The focuses on demographic information not social information(not education, work, rent/own) This type pf information can give reliable data that can be projected into the future. For example what the population of West Haven will be in 2030. What would the percentage be of younger versus older people?

Financial Report – Gunning

 We are in good shape right now

Friends of the Library – Pat

 Summer reading program April 30th. Need assistance, book donations and bodies to help.

Old Business

Allingtown library

 Still pursuing 634 Post Rd. Codespoti will get the plan to us within 6 weeks, possibly 2nd week in May.

Contingency on property runs out in June

Last estimate for site work is $180,000. May end out buying the property outright rather than put forth bad plan.

ARP funds are contingent upon us using Carrigan property for the library. City has to do a lot to make Carrigan property accessible. Make ground safe to build on, put in roads and sewers. 99 year lease. Need to know when we could start building, don’t want it to be dragged out until we lose state funding.

Developer only paid $100,000 for Piantino building

April 21st – Librarian Appreciation Day – for staff, friends and board.

Motion to adjourn – 5:42 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Walker, Recording Secretary